

Kickapoo Environmental Office

# The Green Clan

## National Preparedness Month

Article by Myron Ford, Solid Waste Coordinator

Coming up to the 10th Anniversary of the 911 tragedy, we are reminded of how vulnerable we are to unexpected disasters on a large scale. Recent events such as the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis in Japan, have made us take a closer look at how we handle crisis situations as a nation, as well as at home. We have come to realize that we must be prepared for any disaster, whether it's manmade or from natural forces. On a smaller and more local scale, The Kickapoo Nation has had its share of emergency situations like the ice storm of 2007.

Unfortunately, it's events like these that help us to better prepare for and handle situations or ones similar to this. In memory of those citizens and firefighters who lost their lives the morning of September 11, 2001, the month of September

has been designated **National Preparedness Month** sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security. One goal is to educate the public about how to prepare for emergencies, including natural disasters, mass casualties, biological and chemical threats, radiation emergencies, and terrorist attacks.

This year marks the first year that the Kickapoo Tribe is a Coalition Member of this organization. The goal is to ensure that our community is prepared for any disaster or emergency. For the month of September, the Kickapoo Environmental Office along with the Kickapoo Fire Department and other departments will host an event to better educate tribal members, departments, businesses and the community in general what is needed to survive on their own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least three days.

Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days. In addition, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week or longer.

In order to insure the safety of all tribal members and to make sure that as many households have the necessary items needed to sustain themselves for several days, this event will provide a recommended list of items to include in a **Basic Emergency Supply Kit** and other pamphlets of emergency response. Also, community members will be provided with valuable emergency tips and basic first aid applications, as well as other activities. This event is scheduled for September 29, 2011 at the Pow Wow Grounds.

Contact Myron Ford at 486-2601 Ext. 2 for more information.

Kickapoo Environmental Office  
1107 Goldfinch Rd.  
Horton, KS 66439  
Phone: 785-486-2601  
Fax: 785-486-2445  
E-mail: rachel.hudson@ktik-nsn.gov

**Working Together for a Better  
Community!**

### *Kickapoo Environmental Office Up Coming Events*

<i>Tire Roundup:</i>	<i>September 12-16, 2011</i>
<i>E-Waste Roundup:</i>	<i>September 19-22, 2011</i>
<i>Fall K-20 Cleanup:</i>	<i>September 29, 2011 morning</i>
<i>Preparedness Event:</i>	<i>September 29, 2011 afternoon</i>
<i>Community Cleanup:</i>	<i>October 3-7, 2011</i>

## **Bisphenol-A**

**Vernon Dempsey/article by Environmental Working Group**

Bisphenol a (BPA), a synthetic estrogen used to harden polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resin, is the focus of a growing number of research studies and legislative actions. An estimated 6 billion pounds of BPA are produced globally annually, generating about \$6 billion in sales. It is fabricated into thousands of products made of hard, clear polycarbonate plastics and tough epoxy resins, including safety equipment, eyeglasses, computer and cell phone casings, water and beverage bottles and epoxy paint and coatings. But BPA-based plastics break down readily, particularly when heated or washed with strong detergent.

Trace BPA exposure has been shown to disrupt the endocrine system and trigger a wide variety of disorders, including chromosomal and reproductive system abnormalities, impaired brain and neurological functions, cancer, cardiovascular system damage, adult-onset diabetes, early

puberty, obesity and resistance to chemotherapy.

In March 2007, Environmental Working Group published a ground-breaking study documenting that BPA had leached from epoxy can linings into more than half the canned foods, beverages and canned liquid infant formula randomly purchased at supermarkets around the country. The EWG study, the first of its kind, helped explain why the US centers for Disease Control and Prevention had found detectable levels of BPA in the urine of 93% of Americans over the age of six.

In September 2008, the National Toxicology Program found that BPA at current human exposure levels may be toxic to the brain, behavior and prostate gland of fetuses, infants and children.

Since then, manufacturers like Nalgene, Camelbak and Playtex offered non-BPA bottles, and Wal-Mart, Toys”R”Us and other retail giants discontinued sales of BPA-based plastic

baby bottles, sippy cups and other food containers. Six major companies—Avent, Disney 1st Years, Gerber, Dr. Brown, Playtex and Evenflow have stopped using BPA-based plastic in baby bottles for the US market.

In January 2010, the federal FDA shifted its posture and no longer asserts that trace BPA contamination in food and beverages is safe. The agency has launched a new investigation of low-dose BPA risks and is encouraging industry to develop BPA-free can lining.

Food containers are not the only source of human BPA exposure. In July 2010, EWG made public lab tests finding high levels of BPA on 40% of receipts sampled from major US businesses and services, including outlets of McDonald’s, CVS, KFC, Whole Foods, Wal-Mart, Safeway and the US Postal Service. The chemical is used to coat some thermal papers used in receipt printers.